

Message Text

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47/53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01

SAM-01 EB-07 COME-00 /086 W
----- 112641

O 091132Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5197

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8678

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION PARA 3 THROUGHOUT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: NBC REPORTS ABDUCTION OF TWO AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN BEIRUT ON
29 JUNE 75

1. FOLLOWING REPORT WAS GIVEN TO OUR PAO CURTISS BY BEIRUT
NBC CORRESPONDENT PALMER, WHO SAID HE OBTAINED IT FROM HIS
COLLEAGUE IN CAIRO, ABDULLAH SCHLEIFER*

QUOTE - TWO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF DRESSER INDUSTRIES, J.C.
THOMAS OF TYLER, TEXAS AND DON COLLINS OF SARATOGA, TEXAS,
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REPORTED THAT THEY HAD TRAVELED TO BEIRUT SUNDAY, JUNE 29,

CARRYING A LARGE AMOUNT OF CASH AND CHECKS. AT ABOUT NOON ON SUNDAY AS THEY DROVE TOWARD THE CITY THEY SAID THEY WERE STOPPED "AT AN INTERSECTION" NEAR THE AIRPORT. ASKED IF IT COULD HAVE BEEN A ROUNDABOUT RATHER THAN AN INTERSECTION, THEY WERE UNABLE TO DESCRIBE THE LOCATION MORE PRECISELY SINCE NEITHER IS FAMILIAR WITH BEIRUT. THEY REPORTED THAT THEY WERE BLINDFOLDED AND DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE SITE OF THE ABDUCTION FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES, THE LAST TWO OR THREE MINUTES BEING OVER A BUMPY ROAD.

THEY WERE LOCKED UP AND INTERROGATED OFF AND ON, MOSTLY ABOUT ANY LEBANESE POLITICAL CONNECTIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE, BUT NOT MISTREATED. THEY SAID THEY HEARD PEOPEL SPEAKING IN ARABIC, AND HEARD SCREAMING, UNMISTAKABLY IN THE COURSE OF INTERROGATIONS OF OTHER PRISONERS. AT TIMES THEY HAD UP TO THREE OTHER PRISONERS PLACED WITH THEM. THEY COULD SEE THE OTHER PRISONERS HAD BEEN BEATEN. ONE OF THE PEOPLE DETAINED WITH THEM SPOKE ENGLISH, BUT WAS AFRAID TO TALK TO THEM SO THEY LEARNED NOTHING FROM HIM OF THEIR ABDUCTORS OR THEIR FELLOW DETAINEES.

THEY SAID ALL THEIR CASH WAS TAKEN FROM THEM, BUT NOT THEIR CHECKS. ON SUNDAY, JULY 6, WEEK TO THE DAY FROM THE TIME THEY WERE PICKED UP, THEY WERE DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE SITE OF THEIR DETENTION AND DUMPED OUT OF THE CAR. THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS WAS. THEY REPORT THEY WERE PICKED UP BY A LEBANESE SECURITY PATROL, TAKEN "INTO THE MOUNTAINS," AND TURNED OVER TO A LEBANESE OFFICER THEY HEARD CALLED "IBRAHIM."

AFTER QUESTIONING THEM ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE, HE INDICATED THAT HE KNEW WHO THEIR CAPTORS WERE AND THAT THEY WERE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. HE TOLD THEM THE BEST THING THEY COULD DO WAS GET ON A PLANE AND LEAVE LEBANON IMMEDIATELY. "IBRAHIM" PERSONALLY DROVE THEM TO THE AIRPORT, SAW THAT THEY GOT ON A PLANE FOR CAIRO, AND ASSURED THEM THAT "I WILL CONTACT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY."

NBC'S ABDALLAH SCHLEIFER PICKED UP THE STORY ON THE CAIRO RUMOR CIRCUIT AND ONLY TRACKED THEM DOWN THERE TODAY (8 JULY). - UNQUOTE

BEIRUT NBC BELIEVES REPORT WAS PASSED TO NEW YORK OFFICE SAME TIME AS TO BEIRUT.

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2. THIS REPORT IS PROBABLY THE FACTUAL BASIS FOR A STORY WHICH APPEARED IN JULY 7 ISSUE OF LISAN AL HAL REPORTING THAT TWO OTHER UNNAMED AMERICANS, IN ADDITION TO COL MORGAN, HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED DURING THE RECENT FIGHTING.

3. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT OTHER AMERICANS MAY HAVE BEEN

ABDUCTED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SIMILAR TO COL MORGAN'S
CASE. WE ARE EXTREMELY SHOCKED BY THE FACT THAT NO GOL
AUTHORITY HAD ADVISED US OF FOREGOING AND THE TREATMENT
GIVEN TO THESE INDIVIDUALS, AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS
AND CONCERN TO FORMIN TAKLA DURING MEETING PLANNED FOR LATER TODAY.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY CAIRO ATTEMPT LOCATE THOMAS AND
COLLINS, IF THEY ARE STILL THERE, IN EFFORT OBTAIN ANY
FURTHER INFORMATION THEY MAY HAVE.

5. IF NBC HAS NOT REPEAT NOT YET CARRIED FOREGOING
HOPE IT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT DO SO UNTIL MORGAN CASE
SOLVED.
GODLEY

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